

THOMAS CAMPBELL AND
ELIZABETH DAVIS



Thomas Campbell was born January 5, 1825, in Blairgowrie, Perthshire, Scotland. He was the son of Alexander Campbell and Mary Fife. In his early teens he worked in the coal mines with his father, becoming an experienced coalier. This skill he was to use many years.

When he moved to Kilburnie, Scotland, he met and loved a young Mormon girl, Elizabeth Davis. She was the daughter of Joseph Davis and Janet Campbell. Born in Kilburnie, Ayrshire, Scotland, September 17, 1826, she joined the L. D. S. Church when 16 years old.

Thomas Campbell joined the Church in 1845, just a year prior to their marriage.

326

BEAUTIFUL UPON THE MOUNTAINS

in 1846. They made their home in Kilburnie. Here their first four children were born.

In January of 1855, Thomas and Elizabeth Campbell and their three little boys, Alexander, Joseph and John, left their native land and the grave of little Janet and set sail for America. They came in a small skipper ship, "Charles Buck." They arrived in New Orleans after eight weeks on a very rough sea. Here they boarded the river steamer "Missouri" and were taken to Florence, Nebraska. The trip from here was made by ox teams in the Milo Andrus company. Much of the way they had to walk. They arrived in Salt Lake Valley in October, 1855.

From here they went directly to Cedar City, where Alexander Campbell, an older brother of Thomas, had already settled.

Thomas Campbell's arrival in Utah coincided with a call for more experienced workers in the making of steel in the "iron works" that had been started in Cedar City. He worked as a coalier in this Church-promoted industry. Most of the time there was little or no pay for the workers, consequently there was great privations among the families.

Three years later, Thomas Campbell was called to work with Thomas Rees and others in opening up a coal mine in Wales, Utah. This was the first coal to be mined for commercial purposes in the state. Indian troubles drove these men and their families from their dugout homes at the mouth of Coalbed Canyon and they moved to Moroni.

It was during this time the Indian wars were being fought. Elizabeth Campbell had many hair-raising experiences to tell about when she recalled these times. Her grandchildren loved to hear about the Indians and her family.

Thomas Campbell and his family was included in a group who were sent to establish a settlement in Salina.

In 1865, the Campbell family, now numbering nine people, came to the beautiful valley of Provo River. Here at last they became owners of a permanent home of their own.

No couple was ever more grateful for this blessing. No one was ever more thankful for the Gospel. Thomas Campbell was happy to cultivate his small acreage—especially did he enjoy his home garden.

326

HEBER BIOGRAPHIES

327

He was a kindly man, who loved his family. He had the rare gift of leading out in establishing family loyalty in his home. He enjoyed reading. From his boyhood he had read to remember. Especially was he well informed in the Gospel.

It was in his lovely new home in Heber City that he passed away, in his sixty-ninth year.

Elizabeth Campbell was a practical nurse. She attended the birth of many babies. She was a faithful worker in the Church. During the last 13 years of her life she was blind. This handicap did not deter her from doing temple work. She died November 6, 1901, at the home of a son in Park City.

Their children: Alexander (married Annie Elizabeth McNaughton), Janet (died in Scotland), Joseph Davis (married Margaret McNaughton), John (married Marion Jane Todd), Thomas (died in Cedar City), Agnes (married Richard Jones), William (married Catherine Johnson), Mary Ann (married James W. Clyde), James (married Dorcus Marion (Maude) Witt), Elizabeth (married Charles J. Wahlquist).